

April 1998

Notes from a Consortium Watcher - ACS Journals

Ann Okerson

Yale University, aokerson@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Okerson, Ann (1998) "Notes from a Consortium Watcher - ACS Journals," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 10: Iss. 2, Article 40.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2859>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

Notes from a Consortium Watcher — ACS Journals



by Ann Okerson (Yale University) <ann.okerson@yale.edu>

Dear Readers: When Ann Okerson gave this synopsis of a presentation by the American Chemical Society to the Consortium on Consortia on February 23 over <liblicense-l@lists.yale.edu>, I jumped on it. This is the fifth in a series of presentations and Ann has graciously agreed to let ATG publish her comments. More are forthcoming. Comments are welcome. And thanks, Ann! — KS

Presentation from American Chemical Society (ACS) journals (February 23, 1998) to the COC

Anthony Durniak, Director, Special Publishing Operations

Susan Barclay, Manager, Web Editions

Dean Smith, Institutional Marketing
Highlights: Please see below re. the availability of Interlibrary Loan as a new feature of the ACS journals licenses; also an initial offering for library consortia.

Context: The print journal had an understood value equation; that is, the relationship between information and subscription price are/were relatively well understood in that more readers lead to more demand, which in turn leads to more subscriptions in a library, which, therefore, cost the library or institution more money. Web technology unbalances the value equation: customers expect more functionality and rapid delivery. Libraries perceive low incremental costs for additional access that publishers provide electronically (but costs of providing e-information are not low).

ACS wants to restore the "value balance" in the Web journals equation.

- ACS is not-for-profit;
- Money is not an end unto itself;
- ACS feels obligation to keep library prices as low as possible;
- There is a need to develop business models that advance mature publishing for the future;
- We are re-inventing science journals for this new medium;
- Focus on the absolute price charged, not the percentage increases.

ACS is developing basic and enhanced components for WWW publishing.

- Multiple formats (HTML, PDF);
- Various search tools;
- Multiple years online;
- Articles published online *before* print;
- Expanded content (animation, models, etc.);
- Links are used to expand article "reach".

ACS journals pricing options:

1) Price Option A offered initially: Similar price for e-version (WWW) and p-version (190% of print for both together); enables libraries to cancel print and go for e-only, for approximately the same price as print.

2) Price Option B was developed next: WWW access plus print; customer promises to keep all print and site license costs 25% more than base print price.

3) Consortium Licensing Plan is the very recent development: All institutions participating in a consortium have WWW access to the maximum number of titles subscribed to by the consortium members, with payment as in Option B.

Other licensing terms:

- "Authorized Sites" defined as entire organization (all buildings, facilities, no geographic boundaries; each member institution registers as an Authorized Site; access is controlled by IP addresses of registered institutions).
- Wide variety of customers count as "Authorized Users" (faculty, employees, students, walk-ins).
- "Permitted Use" is defined as that which supports research.
- Limited ILL allowed too (for non-commercial libraries only; intended to support research; library may use WWW to find and retrieve PDF article, may print and mail or fax, or may forward PDF file electronically).
- Customary ILL guidelines apply; copies after the "suggestion of five" paid via CCC or direct to ACS.

- (ACS may audit once per year with notice).
- Other standard restrictions for WWW editions (no alterations, no resale, etc.).

More on the consortial licensing fee based on Price Option B:

- Current print subs plus 25% (see above);
- Customers agree not to cancel print;
- Print subs defined as of 1/98;
- All members pay their share but get access to all titles held within the consortium;
- Standard license for each consortium (i.e., the same license for all of its members);
- Can have single master license or one from each member (same one) signed;
- Multi-year agreements possible;
- The current non-subscribers in a consortium (i.e., little libraries that don't take chemistry titles) are not charged anything (there is no minimum fee).

Archiving:

- An issue that remains to be resolved.
- Every annual sub includes access to WWW archive from 1/96 to date.
- ACS is committed to maintaining an electronic archive.
- ACS is open to suggestion for long-term access modes, options.

Where will "all this" go?

- Printed journals may go away within five years?
- ACS pricing may change markedly in the next five years
- Too soon to tell (9/97 first ejournal availability from ACS).

Adventures in Librarianship Well Preserved



by **Ned Kraft** (Smithsonian Institution Libraries) <nkraft@sil.si.edu>

Last summer I rode Amtrak to Syracuse, New York, for a seven-day course on Preservation Management taught by the eminent John Dean of Cornell University. North of Manhattan, the train follows the beautiful Hudson Valley to Albany. The river is wide, the terrain softly dramatic: green pillow hillsides with a kind of Rip-van-Winkle mystique. Mute swans curl their necks in the backwaters abutting the train tracks. Pleasure boats of all sorts dot the calm, wide sections of the river — the narrow sections left for kayaks and canoes.

The train passed through old towns like Croton-Harmon, Poughkeepsie, and Rhinecliff, with so few roads up close to the river valley that one could imagine the days when the train was the only way from town to town, not a last resort for the careless, or a novelty for the sentimental. We passed the ruins of Bannerman Castle on its rock island, grown woolly green with vines and moss.

With all this scenery I found it hard to concentrate on my preservation readings — assorted articles recommended by Dean, some interesting, some dry — as the train rocked

continued on page 93